



July — August 2005

## Gov. Gregoire proclaims state of emergency

Gov. Christine Gregoire signed her first emergency proclamation Aug. 11 and proclaimed a statewide emergency because of the severe threat of wildfires.

"We face a siege of wildfire across our state. There are now six major wildfires burning in eight different counties, with the potential for large fires to erupt over the next several days and weeks on both sides of the Cascade Mountains," said Gregoire.

The proclamation authorized Maj. Gen. Timothy Lowenberg, director of the Washington Military Department, to order the Washington Army and Air National Guard to active duty should they be needed to assist in wildfire operations or to help local jurisdictions to recover from wildfire damages.

The proclamation also set the stage for the state to possibly request federal aid to help individuals, farmers and businesses recover from wildfire losses and directs state agencies to redeploy resources to assist in firefighting activities. It also gave agencies authorization to take protective steps such as



Smoke from the School Fire erupts into huge mushroom-shaped clouds Aug. 7. The fire, which was the largest this year in Washington, burned nearly 49,000 acres in Columbia and Garfield counties and cost more than \$12 million to fight. (U.S. Forest Service Photo)

## State and local responders sent to Hurricane Katrina disaster

Emergency management personnel from Washington were among those that were sent to the four southern states that were devastated by Hurricane Katrina in late August. In addition, the state was prepared to send members of the Washington National Guard to the Gulf Coast disaster area.

"We are coordinating with state and federal officials around the country offer immediate assistance to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, said Gov. Christine Gregoire., adding, "The scale of this disaster is simply overwhelming. The people of Washington state have a generous spirit and we will do all that we can, individually and collectively, to support the victims of the hurricane."

Emergency Management Division staff coordinated the emergency management personnel requests through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, which includes 48 states, two territories and the District of Columbia.

Laura Goudreau, a logistician in the Emergency Management Division's Planning, Analysis and Logistics Section of the Programs,



A wildfire engine and crew battle the Badger Mountain Fire July 26 in Douglas County. The fire was contained July 27 after burning 2,000 acres of grass, sagebrush and croplands and threatening 30 homes. (Copyrighted Photo by Tom Williams, Wenatchee World)

## Six fire mobilizations authorized in July and August

Six fire mobilizations were authorized in July and August by State Patrol Chief John Batiste. The fires were:

**School Fire:** On the afternoon of Aug. 6, the state's largest wildfire of the season broke out in the hilly fields and forest lands of southeast Washington's Columbia County. The School Fire, fueled by gusty winds, high temperatures and low humidities, was reported to be 6,000 acres in size by 8 p.m. Aug. 6 and threatening between 20 and 30 homes.

The fire mushroomed to an estimated 32,000 acres by Aug. 7, spreading east and north into the adjoining Garfield County and threatening 176 structures. Garfield County proclaimed an emergency, and a State Type I Incident Management Team took over the fire. On Aug. 8, Columbia County proclaimed

an emergency. Approved for federal fire management assistance, the fire had destroyed 109 residences and 106 outbuildings as of Aug. 12. The fire, which was the largest of the season so far in Washington, had blackened 48,500 acres and was 65 per cent contained on Aug. 15.

State Fire Mobilization Plan support was approved at 6:45 p.m. Aug. 6. Under the plan, 229 firefighters and 85 engines and tenders were sent to the fire from Snohomish, San Juan, Island, Mason, Kitsap, Jefferson, King and Pierce counties. At the height of the fire operations, a total of 1,740 fire personnel as well as 153 engines and 53 tenders had been assigned to the School Fire. The fire, whose cause continued to be under investigation, was contained at 5 p.m. Aug. 18 with

49,515 acres burned. As of Aug. 17, School Fire costs were estimated at \$12.4 million.

**Harker Canyon Fire:** WSP Chief John Batiste approved State Fire Mobilization Plan for the Harker Canyon Fire at 5:15 p.m. on Aug. 10. The fire, located about nine miles northeast of Davenport, threatened as many as 50 homes and 30 outbuildings. Under the state fire assistance, the WSP's Fire Protection Bureau had coordinated the dispatch of 100 fire fighters and 29 engines/tenders from Thurston, Mason, Kitsap, King, Yakima, Chelan, Grant, Klickitat and Kittitas counties. The fire was contained at 8 a.m. Aug. 15 after burning 1,566 acres.

Lincoln County Sheriff John Coley added that the Lincoln County Amateur Radio Emergency Service members "did a

## Six fire mobilizations authorized in July and August

fantastic job on short notice” to back up an overloaded county repeater to assist tactical communications at the fire. The Lincoln County amateur radio operators also served a contact for the Red Cross which assisted persons who had evacuated their homes that were threatened by the fire.

**Dirtyface Fire:** The wildfire erupted on the evening of July 30 when a mobile home fire spread to nearby forest land and raced up the south slope of Dirtyface Mountain, which lies on the north side of Lake Wenatchee in Chelan County. About 140 homes in a nearby Whispering Pines area were threatened and state fire mobilization was approved at 3:15 p.m. July 31. Pushed by strong northwest winds, the fire grew to an estimated 965 acres by the morning of Aug. 1. A federal Fire Management Assistance request was approved at 4:24 p.m. Aug. 1 with an incident start time of 6 p.m. July 31. A mandatory evacuation order was issued for 75 residences, and another 100 residences were directed to prepare for an evacuation.

By Aug. 4, fire managers reported the 965-acre fire was 30 per cent contained. A total of 609 personnel were assigned to the fire along with eight helicopters, 45 engines and 21 water tenders. The Washington State Patrol’s (WSP) Fire Protection Bureau had coordinated

the dispatch of firefighters and equipment from Grant, Cowlitz, Snohomish, San Juan, Skagit, Pierce, Kitsap, Mason and King counties. Fire mobilization ended at 6 a.m. Aug. 5.

**Wall Lake Fire:** Fire mobilization was approved at 7:45 p.m. July 28 for the Wall Lake Fire southwest of Davenport in Lincoln County. The fire burned 5,178 acres in grass and threatened 10 homes before state fire assistance ended on July 30. Under the mobilization plan, the WSP’s Fire Protection Bureau coordinated the dispatch of approximately 120 firefighters, 30 engines and water tenders, one helicopter and two wildland fire crews. Personnel and equipment were sent from Kitsap, Mason, Grant, Clark and Yakima counties.

**Badger Canyon Fire:** At 4:15 a.m. July 26, state fire mobilization was authorized for the Badger Road Fire about five miles east of Wenatchee in Douglas County. The fire, which burned an estimated 2,000 acres of grass, sage and croplands, threatened about 30 homes and forced the evacuation of an estimated 50 persons. The fire was contained on July 27. Under the mobilization plan, a total of 100 firefighters, 20 engines, five water tenders, two helicopters, two bulldozers and one wildland fire crew were sent to the fire. Engines and water tenders were dispatched from Spokane, Skagit,

Snohomish, Whatcom, Pierce, King, Kitsap and Mason counties.

**Wood Gulch Fire:** Fire mobilization was declared at 6 p.m. July 23 for the Wood Gulch Fire which burned about three miles north of North Roosevelt in Klickitat County. Ignited by a malfunction in a wheat-harvesting combine, the fire burned 5,400 acres and threatened 15 homes. The mobilization, which ended July 27, dispatched 225 firefighters, 24 wildland engines, five water tenders and three helicopters to the fire. The personnel and equipment came from Benton, Clark and Yakima counties as well as from the Hanford and Kennewick fire departments.

## VoIP deadline extended

The Federal Communications Commission has extended to Sept. 28 the deadline for Voice Over Internet (VoIP) subscribers to acknowledge E9-1-1 limitations.

The decision will allow Internet phone users who have not yet acknowledged limitations to their providers’ 9-1-1 service to have an extra month before their service is cut off.

Industry specialists estimate as many as 100,000 residential VoIP subscribers haven’t yet formally acknowledged possible limitations in E 9-1-1 access.

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closing campgrounds and state parks.

Gov. Gregoire said she signed the emergency proclamation on the recommendation of State Patrol Chief John Batiste and Maj. Gen. Lowenberg.

"Both Chief Batiste and Gen. Lowenberg agreed that the proclamation was a prudent, proactive step to protect the lives, property, the environment and economy of the state," she said..

In addition to mobilizing state resources for this wildfire emergency, the governor urged Washington residents to take extra care with any outdoor activities to avoid starting new fires.

"Nearly every part of our state has the potential for a major fire. Citizens especially need to obey campfire and open burning restrictions," she said

## Wireless caller ID service expands

Most wireless phone users in Washington now have their locations and phone numbers automatically displayed at local 9-1-1 centers. That was the conclusion of the survey wireless carriers completed June 30 by the Emergency Management Division's 9-1-1 unit.

Eleven wireless service providers currently provide cellular coverage in Washington. They are Air Peak Communications, Cingular Wireless, Cricket Communications, Inland Cellular, Nextel, Qwest Wireless, Rural Cellular (Unicel), Sprint PCS, T-Mobile USA, US Cellular and Verizon Wireless.

In 1997, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) established a two-phase plan to provide Automatic Number Identification (ANI) and Automatic Location Identification (ALI) service on all wireless phones. This service, known as the enhanced 9-1-1 (E911) system, has been available since 1998 on all wireline phones in Washington. Some wireless phones had until recently been unable to provide ANI and ALI for 9-1-1 calls.

The FCC ruled that wireless carriers must provide, based upon request by the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), both ANI and ALI on all 9-1-1 wireless calls received at the state's 64 PSAPs or call centers.

Wireless Phase I service directed the cell phone's call back number and the location of the cell tower from which the call originated to automatically display at the 9-1-1 call taker's work station. FCC Phase II order mandated wireless carriers, also known as cellular phone service carriers, to provide more precise location (the longitude and latitude) information with location accuracy up to 300 meters dependent upon location technology when calls are placed to 9-1-1. Wireless ALI is a critical service since often wireless 9-1-1 callers are unable to provide the location from which they are calling or the caller is unable to speak.

Deadlines for provision of Phase II service on wireless phones vary dependent upon location technology employed by the wireless carrier. For instance, if the cell phone is installed with network-based Phase II location technology, the wireless carrier must provide Phase II information within 18 months to 100 percent of its PSAPs coverage area or population. The accuracy and reliability would be 100 meters for 67 percent of the calls and 300 meters for 95 percent of the calls.

If the cell phone is installed with handset-based Phase II location technology, Phase II must be completed by Dec. 31, 2005, with location accuracy within 50 meters 66 percent of the time and 100 meters 95 percent of the time.

To understand the 9-1-1 capabilities offered by a potential carrier, cell phone customers may check carrier service capability by accessing the Enhanced 9-1-1 website at: <http://emd.wa.gov/2-e9-1-1/wireless/01-wireless-idx.htm>.

## **Fourth fire briefly halts Umatilla work**

Umatilla Depot resumed rocket incineration operations July 30 just a day after a fire occurred in one of the depot's two explosive containment rooms.

The fire occurred July 29 as a GB Sarin M55 rocket was being cut into pieces prior to incineration. The Sarin chemical agent already had been drained from the rocket. The rocket ignited as the shear blade was making the fifth of seven cuts through the rocket's motor section.

A water deluge system in the remotely-operated containment room quickly doused the fire. Damage was reported as minimal. The circumstances of the July 29 fire were similar to three prior rocket fires on April 7 and 23 and May 18.

Tests of several rocket motors following last spring's fires showed that separation of two compounds in the 40-year-old fuel created droplets that could spark a fire.

## **James Scharf named to EMC**

Everett Police Chief James Scharf was appointed July 27 to the State Emergency Management Council by Gov. Christine Gregoire. The council advises the governor and the military department director on issues relating to state and local emergency management and issues an annual assessment of state-wide emergency preparedness.

## **State and local responders sent to Hurricane Katrina disaster**

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Exercise and Training Unit, deployed Aug. 28 to Florida state emergency operations center. John and Sharon Aker of Kitsap County were sent in early September to Louisiana for two weeks to work in Individual Assistance and Public Assistance programs.

On Aug. 31, the Pierce County-based Washington Task Force I Urban Search and Rescue team was mobilized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to be sent to Mississippi.

## **APCO honors local 9-1-1-officials**

Kathryn Ashley Hayes of Grays Harbor Communications in Aberdeen was selected as the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials' (APCO) Telecommunicator of the Year at the association's annual conference in Denver in August.

Chris Fischer, chair of the State E911 Advisory Committee since 2000, also was elected to the office of second vice president on the APCO Board of Officers at the conference.

## **Meth prevention DVD available**

A new DVD designed to combat the growth of methamphetamine production and use in Washington has been developed by the Emergency Management Division (EMD) in cooperation with the state departments of Ecology and Health and the Washington State Patrol.

One segment of the DVD addresses the effects of methamphetamine use and the toll to individuals, families, friends and communities. The second part of the DVD provides awareness information on how to detect a clandestine drug lab and what actions to take.

For information on this DVD program, contact your local emergency planning committee, local emergency management office, tribal authority or EMD.

## **Amber Alerts called in July, August**

Law enforcement officers successfully conducted Amber Alerts in July and August in the Puget Sound region.

A July 28 Amber Alert ended with arrest of three suspects and the safe return of a 3 year-old girl, a 16-year-old girl and a 28-year-old woman. The older woman and the 3-year-old were located about 10 p.m. July 28 after Fife Police stopped a vehicle that had been described in the Amber Alert. An anonymous caller helped Pierce County Sheriff's deputies to find the 16-year-old girl about 10 a.m. July 29.

On Aug. 15, Snohomish County Sheriff's Department used an Amber Alert to recover a 2-year-old boy who had been taken by his father without permission.

## Gregoire outlines state response to tsunami alert

In an Aug. 8 Ocean Shores press conference, Gov. Christine Gregoire outlined a series of steps to improve the state's tsunami preparedness and mitigate the effects of a large tsunami wave on public health and safety.

She was joined at the press conference by Maj. Gen. Tim Lowenberg, director of the state's military department, and Grays Harbor County Commissioner Al Carter,

The governor's comments presented the first comprehensive Washington state government response to the June 14 tsunami warning which was sent to the entire West Coast following a magnitude 7.2 earthquake off of the northern California coast. The earthquake generated no damaging tsunami wave, but the warning revealed several problems in the tsunami alert and warning system.

"Our state has long been a leader in tsunami preparedness, but we must do more," said Gregoire.

The governor's plan includes six key points critical to tsunami preparedness in the state. Those steps include:

- Improving our detection network. The governor pledged to work with the state's Congressional delegation to support a significant new tsunami detection and warning program. The governor will seek assurances that

the necessary buoys and detection equipment are adequately funded and properly located to warn of the tsunami risks along our coast.

- Asking the Legislature for funding to accelerate the construction and installation of local tsunami warning systems, and further requesting federal agencies to match or exceed the state's contribution. Funding requests will also include all weather radios for schools and public facilities along the coast. This local broadcast network will supplement the federal system by ensuring that the word of an oncoming tsunami gets out quickly.
- Ensuring that all levels of government come together in a unified response. The governor has asked the state's Emergency Management Division to secure agreements between local, state, federal and tribal governments to provide a consistent tsunami warning and response.
- Improving public education and awareness through the Emergency Management Division by developing a sustained education campaign that will significantly increase the readiness of both children and adults to respond properly in the event of a tsunami warning.

The governor will also ask that public education be a significant feature of the new federal tsunami program.

- Improving tsunami evacuation routes by establishing a complete geological map of the roads to determine what road improvements must be made in order that the public will be able to move quickly and safely to higher ground. While the state currently has "Tsunami Evacuation Route" signs posted along highways in vulnerable areas, the governor asked the Emergency Management Division to improve the public's ability to evacuate safely along these roads by working with local jurisdictions, public land managers and owners of private roads to encourage agreements that allow for emergency access to safe, higher ground. The governor pledged to ask for legislation during the 2006 legislative session to provide access while protecting landowners if necessary.
- Improving building standards in high risk, low-elevation areas. In some coastal areas, the roads may be damaged by the quake before the waves arrive, requiring people to take refuge in or on buildings that can withstand both the quake and the tsunami waves.



## September time to prepare

Washington state will observe National Preparedness Month, 9-1-1 Day, and Weather Radio Awareness Month in September.

**A statewide earthquake drill will occur Sept. 14 between 10:45 a.m. and 11 a.m., and will coincide with a test of the tsunami warning communications system on Washington's Pacific coast.**

A Preparedness Month packet features a new guide to weather safety and preparedness information, information on the use of 9-1-1 for contacting emergency services including the use of cell phones and the internet, protective actions against the spread of flu, a homeland security guide, a CD on the dangers of methamphetamines; and a poster for the Sept. 14 earthquake drill.

For further assistance with disaster planning and to obtain Preparedness Month materials, contact your local emergency management office. Preparedness Month Campaign materials also are available at [www.emd.wa.gov](http://www.emd.wa.gov).

For preparedness month information, contact Barbara Everett Thurman, EMD public education manager, (253-512-7047; the National Weather Service forecast offices in Seattle, Spokane, Pendleton or Portland; or Penelope Cassidy, E911 public information officer, (253) 512-7016.



Emergency responders from the states of Washington and Idaho, the Province of British Columbia, the counties of Pend Oreille, Ferry, Stevens and Spokane in Washington, and Kootenai County in Idaho, participated in the Region 9 homeland security exercise July 20 in the Stevens County Sheriff's Annex in Colville. (Stevens County photo)

## Region 9 holds HLS exercise

More than 70 emergency responders from Washington, Idaho and British Columbia participated in Homeland Security Region 9's Cross Border homeland security tabletop exercise July 20 in Colville.

The exercise, hosted by the Stevens County Sheriff's Office, allowed regional emergency response agencies to evaluate current concepts, plans and capabilities for responding to a terrorist event in the states of Washington and Idaho and the province of British Columbia.

Participating Canadian response agencies included the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; Kootenay Boundary Regional Fire Rescue, the Canada Border Services Agency, the British Columbia Forest Service Pro-

tection Program and Provincial Emergency Program.

Washington state participants included the emergency management and sheriff's offices of Pend Oreille, Spokane, Ferry and Stevens counties. State agency participants included the Washington Emergency Management Division and the Washington State Patrol.

The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security, the Kootenai and Bonner Idaho Sheriff's Offices, the U.S. Border Patrol and the U.S. Forest Service also participated in the exercise.

The Office of Defense Preparedness in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security coordinated and evaluated the exercise.



Kathy Paterson, center with lei, was the guest of honor at a July 28 luncheon to celebrate her retirement after 13 years of state service, including 10 years with the Emergency Management Division. (EMD Photo)

## EMD staff recognition, awards

**Andy Bohlander**, Emergency Management Division (EMD) program coordinator and an information technology specialist, was appointed an emergency management planning and analysis coordinator in the Planning, Analysis and Logistics Section of the Planning, Exercise and Training Unit effective Aug. 1. He joined EMD in July 2002.

**Kathy Paterson**, secretary administrative in the Mitigation, Response and Recovery Unit, retired Aug. 1 after 13 years of service with the state. She came to EMD from the Department of Social and Health Services in 1997.

**Dan Staber**, homeland security and terrorism program manager in the Homeland Security Section of the Programs

Unit, retired Aug. 31 after 10 years of state service. He joined EMD in 1996 as a hazardous materials program coordinator. He was presented a Washington state Certificate of Appreciation at an all-staff meeting Aug. 26

**Tony Raines**, who has served as state emergency operations officer since joining EMD in December 2003, was named to the new position of Alert and Warning Center supervisor, effective Aug. 1.

**Earl Dickey** was appointed to a state emergency operations officer position, effective July 1. He is a retired U.S. Air Force veteran.

**Ted Henkle** joined EMD on Aug. 1 as a state emergency operations officer in the new

Alert and Warning Center. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2003.

**Chris Polit** started Aug. 16 as a state emergency operations officer in the new Alert and Warning Center. He previously worked in EMD project positions in the Recovery Field Office and in the Plans section of the former Mitigation, Analysis and Plans Unit.

**Sheryl Jardine** was named Aug. 10 to the permanent position of Urban Area Security Initiative program manager in the Homeland Security Section of the Programs Unit. Jardine, who came to EMD in 1998, has been a program coordinator in the homeland security section.

**Tim Clark**, EMD assistant director, was presented a state five-year service award in July. He came to EMD as in January 2000 as the chief of staff.

**Ute Weber** will become EMD's Columbia Generating Station/U.S. Department of Energy coordinator on Sept. 15. An EMD employee since 2001, Weber has been homeland security/terrorism coordinator in the Homeland Security Section of the Programs Unit. She was presented a certificate of appreciation from Homeland Security Section Manager Arel Solie in an Aug. 26 staff meeting.

**Donald MacSparran** joined EMD Aug. 15 as a new program assistant in the Homeland Security Section of the Programs Unit. A U.S. Air Force veteran, MacSparran worked at a vocational training institute.



## Seattle Fault study published; completes project begun in 2002

A publication that examines what might happen in a major earthquake on the Seattle Fault in Washington State is now available.

The *Scenario for a Magnitude 6.7 Earthquake on the Seattle Fault* is the culmination of a three-year study led by a 12-member multi-disciplinary project team of scientists, engineers, planners, emergency managers, and social scientists. Staff from the Military Department's Emergency Management Division participated on the project team and managed completion of the project during the past year.

Copies of the scenario publication are available at the Washington State Department of Printing Fulfillment Center web site <https://fortress.wa.gov/prt/printwa/wsprt/default.asp> for the cost of shipping and handling. Cost per copy varies by the number of copies ordered.

The Seattle Fault Earthquake Scenario project began in 2002 as the region learned more about the surface fault and as public and private sector experts grew increasingly concerned about earthquake safety in the region.

Project Team members represent the Emergency Management Division, Earthquake Engineering Research Institute of Oakland, CA, cities of Seattle and Bellevue emergency management offices, U.S. Geological Survey, Structural Engineers Association of Washington, Seattle Area Geo-Technical Workgroup of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Cascadia Region Earthquake Workgroup, and the University of Washington. About 75 professionals from various disciplines and organizations contributed more than 3,000 hours to the Seattle Fault Earthquake Scenario project.

## EMD staff awards, recognition

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**Dalton Gamboa** was named secretary senior in the newly reconstituted programs section of the Programs Unit. He had been a secretary senior in the training section of the Programs, Exercise and Training Unit since programs section since November 2004.

**Tifanie Goff** became a secretary for the Planning, Exercise and Training Unit on July 25. She previously worked with the state Department of Labor and Industries.

**Alec Chapman** was appointed secretary senior in the Homeland Security Section in the Programs Unit on Aug. 4. He had been serving on temporary appointment in the position since November 2004.

**Victoria Padron** was selected for the secretary administrative position in the Planning, Exercise and Training Unit July 18. She is an Emergency Management Division disaster reservist and had been working in a budget assistant project position since May.

## Sept. 27 dinner honors Thurman retirement

**Barbara Thurman**, the Emergency Management Division's public education coordinator, will be honored at a Sept. 27 dinner from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Tacoma Elks Lodge, 1965 South Union Ave., as she retires after 10 years of state service.

Tickets for dinner can be purchased for \$15 each through Dalton Gamboa, Washington Emergency Management Division, at [d.gamboa@emd.wa.gov](mailto:d.gamboa@emd.wa.gov).



### Emergency Responder

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